



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

mentioning poems belonging to the *Geste de Guillaume*, such as the poem of Ermoldus Nigellus, and the *Liber de miraculis Sancti Jacobi*. An attempt was made to show that the *geste* had reached a considerable development by the middle of the eleventh century, a development, in fact, much more complete than has generally been supposed. In the opinion of the reader, the *geste* possessed at the close of the eleventh century a more harmoniously rounded *ensemble* than at any subsequent period. It may perhaps be said that the *geste* bent and broke under its own weight. In the ruin of its fall, many poems, some of them doubtless of no small merit, were lost. In general, however, the finest passages of the lost epics were preserved in one form or another. This point was insisted on as of importance, and as likely to decrease our regret over the loss of so many poems.

The author instead of reading his paper in full, gave an oral synopsis of its leading points.

On the announcement of the next paper, a motion was made and carried that for the purpose of giving more time for discussion, papers contributed by members not present should not be read *in extenso*, but that only an outline of them should be given.

5. "The Germanic suffix *-ar-ja*." By Professor Julius Goebel, of Leland Stanford Jr. University. [Printed in *Publications*, xv, 321 f.]

This paper was presented, in the author's absence, by Dr. H. B. Almstedt, of the University of Chicago.

The Association then adjourned for luncheon which was served in the Library.

### THIRD SESSION, DECEMBER 28.

The Association reassembled at 2.30 p. m.

The President appointed the following committees :

To audit the Treasurer's account : Professors H. A. Vance and C. C. Ferrell.

To nominate officers for the coming year : Professors Charles Bundy Wilson, C. W. Pearson, J. S. Nollen, A. R. Hohlfeld, and W. L. Weber.

The reading of papers was then resumed.

6. "Notes on the Alfredian version of Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*." By Professor Frederick Klaeber, of the University of Minnesota.

For nearly one hundred and seventy years the Old English *Bede* had been suffered to remain buried in Smith's unwieldy folio edition of 1722. Even now, when by the new editions of Miller and Schipper the material for research has been placed at the service of students with gratifying completeness, this uncommonly interesting prose text is still far from being adequately investigated. How much uncertainty yet prevails regarding the mere textual interpretation, is evidenced by nearly all text books which contain specimens from the *Bede*. We need above all a more thorough examination of linguistic details.

It is no longer necessary to prove the existence of Anglian features in the text. But the nature and the extent of the dialectal element should be ascertained more precisely. A careful comparison of the MSS. confirms in general Dr. Miller's conclusions as to the Anglian original. Especially instructive are those cases in which the discrepancies between the different MSS., notably obvious scribal blunders, enable us to settle the archetypal reading beyond the possibility of doubt. Numerous Anglian forms and Anglian words are thus established as unquestionably original.

The lexical study sheds further light on the peculiar position of the *Bede* and on the stratification of the Old English vocabulary in general. Of words demanding our primary attention the following main groups are to be noted: (1) ἄπαξ λεγόμενα, some of them of a suspiciously problematical character. (2) Distinctly Anglian vocables, inclusive of such as are found only in poetical texts. The list produced by Miller and added to, incidentally, by some other scholars is to be greatly enlarged. (3) Non-West Saxon words—to use a general name—among which many terms occurring in "mixed" texts are to be classed. (4) Words employed with unusual meanings.—We may add, (5) Nouns having different genders or declensions in the different MSS., e. g., *ēðel*, *bend*, *gif(u)*. Also (6) Remarkable phrases, in particular some suggestive of Old English poetry.

On the other hand, our text abounds with "unnatural words" (Sweet), mostly derivatives and compounds modeled closely after Latin patterns. A number of them can scarcely be said to form a genuine part of the Old English vocabulary. Still, we must beware of condemning these coinages indiscriminately as illegitimate. The necessity of finding equivalents for certain Latin terms heavily taxed the inventiveness of the Anglo-Saxon scholar. At the same time, the vehicle of Old English prose was still in its formative stage, and the genius of the language imposed hardly any limits on the inherited principle of forming compounds. We admit, however, that the inordinate use, e. g., of the derivative suffix *-nis*, marks, in fact, a